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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

MECHTHILD RIEPING, ET AL.

: EXAMINER: L. ODELL

SERIAL NO: 10/616,309 :

FILED: JULY 10, 2003

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1652

FOR: PROCESS FOR THE
FERMENTATIVE PREPARATION OF L-
AMINO ACIDS USING STRAINS OF THE
ENTEROBACTERIACEAE FAMILY :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the following Preliminary Amendment.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 12 of this paper.